



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,863	03/18/2004	Takahiro Masuda	1046.1317	7728
21171	7590	12/15/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MAHMOOD, REZWANUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2164	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/802,863	MASUDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Rezwanul Mahmood	Art Unit 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03182006</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-14 are pending in this office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gotou (US Patent 7,085,629).

4. With respect to claim 1, Gotou discloses an electronic mail device comprising:
  - a mail accepting unit accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);
  - a keyword extraction unit obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);
  - a search unit searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail, etc. processed in the past (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53;

Column 7, lines 1-6; Figure 12); and

an adding unit adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figure 4A; Figure 12).

5. With respect to claim 2, Gotou discloses an electronic mail device according to claim 1, wherein the keyword extraction unit extracts, as a keyword, information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient (Gotou: Column 10, lines 55-67; Column 11, lines 16-26; Figure 4B; Figure 9; Figure 12).

6. With respect to claim 4, Gotou discloses an electronic mail device according to claim 1, further comprising an additional information selection unit accepting, in a case where the search unit has searched for plural pieces of additional information, a selection of the information, which is actually added, from the plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 2-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figure 12).

7. With respect to claim 5, Gotou discloses an electronic mail device according to any one of claims 1 through 4, wherein when receiving the electronic mail from a source terminal and transmitting the mail to a destination terminal, the additional information is added to the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 3-21; Figures 4A-4C and 12).

Art Unit: 2164

8. With respect to claim 6, Gotou discloses a recording medium recorded with an information adding program for an electronic mail, for making a computer execute steps of:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail, etc. processed in the past (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 1-6; Figure 12); and

adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figure 4A; Figure 12).

9. With respect to claim 7, Gotou discloses a recording medium recorded with an information adding program for an electronic mail according to claim 6, wherein the step of obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient (Gotou: Column 10, lines 55-67; Column 11, lines 16-26; Figure 4B; Figure 9; Figure 12).

10. With respect to claim 9, Gotou discloses a recording medium recorded with an

Art Unit: 2164

information adding program for an electronic mail according to claim 6, further comprising a step of accepting, in the case of having searched for plural pieces of additional information in the step of searching for the additional information, a selection of the information, which is actually added, from the plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 2-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figure 12).

11. With respect to claim 10, Gotou discloses an information adding method for an electronic mail, by which an electronic mail device executes steps of:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail, etc. processed in the past (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 1-6; Figure 12); and

adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figure 4A; Figure 12).

12. With respect to claim 11, Gotou discloses an information adding method for an

electronic mail according to claim 10, wherein the step of obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient (Gotou: Column 10, lines 55-67; Column 11, lines 16-26; Figure 4B; Figure 9; Figure 12).

13. With respect to claim 13, Gotou discloses an information adding method for an electronic mail according to claim 10, further comprising a step of accepting, in the case of having searched for plural pieces of additional information in the step of searching for the additional information, a selection of the information, which is actually added, from the plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 2-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figure 12).

14. With respect to claim 14, Gotou discloses an information adding program for an electronic mail, for making a computer execute steps of:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail, etc. processed in the past (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 1-6; Figure 12); and

adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figure 4A; Figure 12).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 3, 8, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (US Patent 7,085,629) as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, and 14 in the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection above, in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769).

17. With respect to claim 3, Gotou discloses an electronic mail device according to claim 1,

Gotou does not explicitly teach, extracting a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time.

However, Rast discloses claimed extracting a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time (Rast: Paragraph 10, lines 6-9; Figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Gotou and Rast to have the keyword extraction unit extracting a date and time for the benefit of providing the delivery of email messages at a specified time (Rast: Paragraph 23, lines 1-2).

18. With respect to claim 8, Gotou in view of Rast discloses a recording medium recorded with an information adding program for an electronic mail according to claim 6, wherein the step of obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time (Rast: Paragraph 10, lines 6-9; Figure 2).

19. With respect to claim 12, Gotou discloses an information adding method for an electronic mail according to claim 10, wherein the step of obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time (Rast: Paragraph 10, lines 6-9; Figure 2).

### ***Conclusion***

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Icisin reference (US Publication 2002/0044067) teaches about message delivery based on geographical and temporal parameters. The Tuvey

reference (US Publication 2002/0019849) teaches about an information communication system. The Yamamoto reference (US Publication 2005/0165739) teaches about extracting words from mail documents that correspond to the user's interest.

***Contact Information***

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Rezwanul Mahmood  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2164

December 4, 2006

  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER